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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

23409 7590 11/30/2011
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP
100 E WISCONSIN AVENUE
Suite 3300
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

EXAMINER

HAILE, AWET A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2474

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/580,401

03/13/2007

Dan Chen

026613-9004-US

2084

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD, DEVICE AND SYSTEM FOR REALIZING QOS GUARANTEE IN A MPLS NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1740	\$300	\$0	\$2040	02/29/2012

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

23409 7590 11/30/2011
MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP
100 E WISCONSIN AVENUE
Suite 3300
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/580,401 03/13/2007 Dan Chen 026613-9004-US 2084

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD, DEVICE AND SYSTEM FOR REALIZING QOS GUARANTEE IN A MPLS NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1740	\$300	\$0	\$2040	02/29/2012

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HAILE, AWET A	2474	370-252000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/580,401	03/13/2007	Dan Chen	026613-9004-US	2084

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EXAMINER

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2474

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 233 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 233 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/580,401	CHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	AWET HAILE	2474	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on August 26, 2011.
 2. ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on ____; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
 3. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 5, 6, 9, 12, 16 and 21.
 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has **THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE"** of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20111121</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

/AUNG S. MOE/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2474

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jay Einerson Reg. No. 61,261 on 11/21/2011

Claims 2-4, 7, 8, 13 and 17 are canceled

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 12, 16 and 21 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for realizing Quality of Service (QoS) guarantee in a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) ~~MPLS~~ network, comprising:

pre-creating an individual QoS resource list in each edge router to record a resource state corresponding to a path before receiving a resource request from a user terminal, wherein the resource states of the paths from the edge router to all other edge routers in the same domain are recorded in said individual QoS resource list; and

said edge router receiving the resource request from the user terminal;

said edge router searching said QoS resource list for available information of the requested resources based on an egress edge router in said resource request;

said edge router determining whether the resource request is accessed or rejected based on the available information of said requested resources;

when the resource request is determined to be accessed, modifying the available information of the requested resources in said QoS resource list and sending an acknowledgement message to said user terminal;

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creating the QoS resource list further comprises:
pre-configuring label switching paths(LSPs) based on service class to set different LSPs for
different service classes;

said edge router obtaining resource information of the path from the edge router to each
of the other edge routers in the same domain based on LSP resource state information and route
information of said MPLS network, and saving the resource information in the QoS resource list
~~each edge router assigning resources to a user terminal which makes a request based on said QoS~~
~~resource list and then updating the QoS resource list correspondingly.~~

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that said QoS resource list at least comprises information of said ~~an~~ egress edge router, service class, LSP resources and available resources.

6. (Currently amended) A method for establishing a Quality of Service (QoS) ~~QoS~~ data path in a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) ~~MPLS~~ network, comprising:

a user terminal sending a QoS resource request to an ingress edge router;

said ingress edge router determining information of a path to an egress edge router of the QoS resource request;

said ingress edge router determining whether the resource request is accessed or rejected based on comparing available resources of the requested resources corresponding to the path recorded in a QoS resource list with bandwidth resources requested in said resource request;

rejecting access when the available resources are less than the bandwidth resources,
sending a message of rejecting access to said user terminal; and

allowing access when the available resources are not less than the bandwidth resources
~~when the resource request is determined to be accessed,~~ updating said QoS resource list correspondingly; and

wherein said QoS resource list is pre-created in each edge router before receiving the
resource request from the user terminal, and the resource states of the paths from the edge router to all other edge routers in the same domain are recorded in said QoS resource list;

creating the QoS resource list further comprises:

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pre-configuring label switching paths(LSPs) based on service class to set different LSPs for different service classes;

said edge router obtaining resource information of the path from the edge router to each of the other edge routers in the same domain based on LSP resource state information and route information of said MPLS network, and saving the resource information in the QoS resource list.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[8]] 6, characterized in that the step of allowing the user terminal to access further comprises:

when the resource request is not cross-domain, said edge router sending the resource request to a destination user terminal in said resource request and waiting for an acknowledgement message from the destination user terminal;

when the resource request is cross-domain, said edge router searching for a domain which is close to the destination user terminal in said resource request and has available resources larger than said bandwidth resources, sending the resource request to an edge router of the domain and waiting for an acknowledgement message from the edge router of the domain;

after receiving the acknowledgement message, said edge router sending the acknowledgement message to said user terminal; and

after receiving the acknowledgement message, said user terminal starts the data transmission.

12. (Currently amended) A method for terminating Quality of Service (QoS) ~~QoS~~ data transmission in a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) ~~MPLS~~ network, comprising:

an ingress edge router receiving QoS resource request from a user terminal;

said ingress edge router searching QoS resource list for available information of the requested resources based on an egress edge router in said QoS resource request;

said ingress edge router determining whether the QoS resource request is accessed or rejected based on the available information; and

said an ingress edge router receiving a resource releasing request from a user terminal;
said ingress edge router releasing the resources occupied by said user terminal;

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said ingress edge router correspondingly modifying its said QoS resource list which records a resource state corresponding to a path; and

wherein said QoS resource list is pre-created in each edge router before receiving said resource request from the user terminal, and the resource states of the paths from the edge router to all other edge routers in the same domain are recorded in said QoS resource list;

creating the QoS resource list further comprises:

pre-configuring label switching paths(LSPs) based on service class to set different LSPs for different service classes;

said edge router obtaining resource information of the path from the edge router to each of the other edge routers in the same domain based on LSP resource state information and route information of said MPLS network, and saving the resource information in the QoS resource list.

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16. (Currently amended) An edge router for a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) ~~MPLS~~ network, comprising:

a Quality of Service (QoS) ~~QoS~~ resource list for recording a number of resource states corresponding to a number of paths; and

an access and resource control unit for ~~accessing or rejecting~~ receiving a resource request from a user terminal, searching the QoS resource list for available information of the requested resources and accessing or rejecting the requested resource based on information recorded in the QoS resource list ~~and~~ then updating said QoS resource list correspondingly, and sending an acknowledgement message to the user terminal; and

wherein said QoS resource list is pre-created in each edge router before receiving said resource request from the user terminal, and the resource states of the paths from the edge router to all other edge routers in the same domain are recorded in said QoS resource list;

creating the QoS resource list further comprises:

pre-configuring label switching paths(LSPs) based on service class to set different LSPs for different service classes;

said edge router obtaining resource information of the path from the edge router to each of the other edge routers in the same domain based on LSP resource state information and route information of said MPLS network, and saving the resource information in the QoS resource list.

21. (Currently Amended) A MPLS network for realizing QoS guarantee, comprising:
an edge router according to claim 16 ~~any one of claims 16 to 20~~.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1, 5, 6, 9-12, 14-16 and 18-21** are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The proposed amendment submitted on 11/21/2011 which incorporated new limitations into the independent claims 1, 6, 12 and 16 has placed the instant application in a favorable

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condition for allowance. The prior art record, considered individually or in combination, appears to fail to fairly show or suggest a claimed invention comprising, a method for realizing Quality of Service (QoS) guarantee in a Multi Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) network, comprising:

pre-creating an individual QoS resource list in each edge router to record a resource state corresponding to a path before receiving a resource request from a user terminal, wherein the resource states of the paths from the edge router to all other edge routers in the same domain are recorded in said individual QoS resource list; and

said edge router receiving the resource request from the user terminal;

said edge router searching said QoS resource list for available information of the requested resources based on an egress edge router in said resource request;

said edge router determining whether the resource request is accessed or rejected based on the available information of said requested resources;

when the resource request is determined to be accessed, modifying the available information of the requested resources in said QoS resource list and sending an acknowledgement message to said user terminal;

creating the QoS resource list further comprises:

pre-configuring label switching paths (LSPs) based on service class to set different LSPs for different service classes;

said edge router obtaining resource information of the path from the edge router to each of the other edge routers in the same domain based on LSP resource state information and route information of said MPLS network, and saving the resource information in the QoS resource list.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AWET HAILE whose telephone number is (571)270-3114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/AUNG S. MOE/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2474

/AWET HAILE/
Examiner, Art Unit 2474